

Appl. No. 09/828,660
Response to Final Action of July 30, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Tsai for the interview of November 18, 2003 in which the above amendments to the claims were discussed.

Claims 38-44, 48-54 and 59-67 are pending following entry of the above amendments. Claims 41, 42 and 64 are allowed. Claims 45-47 and 55-58 have been canceled. New claims 65-67 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 38, 39 and 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,876,160 to Johnson. Each of these claims requires a cutting edge having first and second ends (or root and tip ends) and having *a controlled hone* formed thereon. Each of these claims further requires that the controlled hone is varied.

Each of claims 38, 39 and 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63, as amended, further requires that at least a substantial portion of the controlled hone defines a surface that *is continuously curved in cross section*.

The rejection of claims 38, 39, 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63 was based on the assertion that the faceted lands disclosed in Johnson could be interpreted as a hone, under a broad interpretation of the claims. The rejection was also based on the assertion that the faceted surfaces of Johnson change in length and slope and that such changes are comparable to variation in hone shape and dimension.

The faceted lands defined by Johnson, however, do not define surfaces that are continuously curved in cross section as required by each of claims 38, 39, 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63. Johnson, therefore, fails to show the elements required by each of these claims. For at least this reason, Johnson fails to anticipate any of claims 38, 39, 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Johnson of forming a honed surface having a portion that is continuously curved in cross section in the claimed manner. The teaching in Johnson of faceted surfaces teaches away from curved surfaces. The invention of claims 38, 39, 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63, therefore, would not have been obvious from Johnson.

The applicant acknowledges the determination made by Examiner Tsai, as stated during the interview of November 18, 2003, that the above amendments to the claims appear to overcome the rejection based on Johnson.

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The applicant respectfully request entry of the above amendments and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 38, 39, 43-44, 48-54 and 59-63.

Claim 40 is rejected as obvious based on Johnson. Claim 40 depends from claim 38 and, therefore, requires a cutting edge having a controlled hone defining a *surface that is continuously curved in cross section*. As discussed above, the cutting edge of Johnson has faceted lands formed thereon and, therefore, fails to disclose or suggest forming a honed surface having a portion that is continuously curved in cross section as required by claim 40. For at least this reason, the invention of claim 40 is not obvious from Johnson. The applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 40 be withdrawn.

New claims 65-67 have been added. The limitations of these claims are similar to those of allowed claims 41, 42 and 64, respectively, except that the term "shape" has been replaced with the term "dimension". New claims 65-67, therefore, should also be allowable.

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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